

EXPERIMENTAL TELEVISION CENTER
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
BINGHAMTON NEW YORK 13901
TELEPHONE 607-798-2710
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

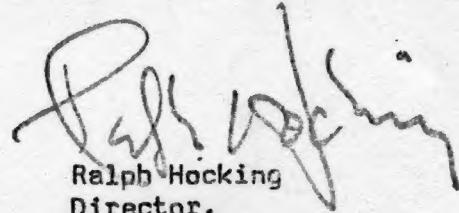
26 August 1970

Mr. Russell Connor
New York State Council
on the Arts
250 W. 57th Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Connor:

Enclosed is a proposal for expansion of the Experimental Television Center at SUNY/Binghamton. We have worked with many people in developing what we feel is an alternative to our current, undesirable situation with television.

We are confident that the programs described in this proposal will bring new understanding to the field of television. This understanding is necessary to combat the televisual mind pollution controlling our society.



Ralph Hocking
Director,
Experimental Television
Center

RH/lch

CURRENT PHYSICAL SITUATION

SONY 1/2" Videotape Equipment on Hand

1. 3 DVK 2400/VCK 2400 Cameras
2. 3 Recorder/playback CV 2200
3. 1 SEG-1 Special Effects Generator
4. 1 Portable monitor 8" CVM-31 UWP
5. 2 Monitor 22" CVM 220U
6. 1 Mini mod. RF Converter
7. Extension Cables, A/C adaptors,
and various accessories

We have occasional access to two other cameras and playback units on campus. We also have a borrowed, scrounged, and stolen collection of tools and maintenance equipment. The campus has a service organization called Educational Communications. They have a wealth of 1" and 2" black and white video tape equipment. In the past, the E.T.C. has had a very limited access to these devices, however, we expect that avenue of access to broaden.

FIRST PROPOSAL

We got it — for \$2000.

9/70

PROPOSAL FOR EXPANSION OF THE
EXPERIMENTAL TELEVISION CENTER

I. The Experimental Television Center was started in the Fall of 1969 because it was felt that there should be an opportunity for students and faculty on this campus to involve themselves in the production of television as a personal means of communication and expression. Furthermore, it was felt that if a camera was placed in the hands of persons who don't know television production, we would discover new ways to use television on this campus.

To date we have discovered that:

1. Television is usually thought of as a complex means of communication.
2. Television is a means of expression that may be used by people in all walks of life with very little training using simple equipment.
3. The power of non-professional television is astounding. (See Appendix.)

II. In the Fall of 1970 the Experimental Television Center will offer the following opportunities to SUNY/Binghamton:

1. Students/faculty will have available to them 1/2" equipment for their use.
2. Students at SUNY/Binghamton may be given credit for independent study projects in the Cinema Department (Cinema 191). The prerequisite for credit is:
 - a. The student will learn to operate the SONY equipment, under 1. above.
 - b. The student will submit a proposal to the E.T.C. describing the project in detail. When this proposal is accepted, he is working for credit.

Credit may also be given for projects that relate to other areas of television.

Workshops for Using Television in Educational Systems

III. Representatives of local public education have been asking for help in using television. Many local school systems have closed circuit t.v. distribution systems but no means of production.

We propose to conduct a series of workshops on the Binghamton campus aimed at familiarizing participants with available machines and discussions of educational uses of these machines and television concepts. No doctrine is available nor is one sought. Stimulation is available and as yet, undiscovered uses for television are the goals. The workshops will be open to local educators and other interested members of the community.

We also plan to offer workshops and conferences for the benefit of the SUNY system.

Community Center for Television Production (CCTVP)

IV. The need for community involvement in the production of television seems self-evident if one is at all aware of the effects of television as we now know it (network control).

The main body of commercial television is the presentation of synthetic life. Those programs devoted to news and documentaries are compressions of high points of excitement and interest and offer only a superficial understanding of the situation they are describing. The most imaginative, natural uses of television are presentations of football games and some other sports events. They are programs that allow the viewer to understand more fully the totality of a situation.

Locally there are no alternatives to this kind of television. People outside the sphere of professional television production are never in a position to make television. They are in a constantly passive position relative to available information via the medium.

The Community Center for Television Production will be open to the entire community. The Center will foster an understanding of the visual world and an emphasis of the importance of all human activity. The Center will encourage individual production and television and experimentation to discover new uses for the medium. The Center will be located somewhere in the Triple Cities area, but not on the SUNY campus. Ideally, we will rent a theater or loft space to house the Community Center and act as a T.V. Theater. We have access to a television projector.

So far most of the tapes made at the Experimental Television Center have been viewed by the makers and a few other people--with the exception of some tapes made in Bedford-Stuyvesant. These were shown to many local organizations by taking the playback equipment to them.

Although the Center has been effective in developing lines of communication without broadcasting, we are forming alliances with local N.E.T., commercial stations, and the cable companies with the intention of eventually broadcasting our information.

SUNY/Binghamton Artists-in-Residence Program

V. We know the influence of artists working in television is essential to a healthy understanding of the medium. The artists-in-residence will be chosen by the Cinema Department, SUNY/Binghamton. The period of residency may be three, six, or twelve months, or arrangements may be made for shorter periods of time--that is, funds for one three-month period may be devoted to a series of discussions and/or shows by artists instead of having someone in residence. The Artists-in-Residence will be given space and equipment necessary to carry on their ideas. They will be able to make use of other personnel at the Center (engineer, secretary, interested students, etc.) and whatever equipment and space facilities we can make available. They will be asked to participate in other phases of the Center's activities, i.e., Workshops, Community Center, etc.